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Precedence: R

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From: DOD, ARMY, ORGANIZATIONS, AHRC, HRC AG(UC), HRC MILITARY AWARDS BR(UC)

Subject: Processing of the Combat Action Badge (CAB)

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1. To ensure the timely and meaningful recognition of truly deserving Soldiers, commanders delegated as approval authorities for the CAB are urged to process CAB requests during deployment. If that is not possible, these same commanders have 90 days upon redeployment to make a determination on pending CAB requests.

2. Soldiers serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom submit their requests to their chain of command for decision while in theater. The approval authority for Iraq is Commander, Multi-National Force-Iraq with further delegation to commanders in the rank of Brigadier General and above; and for Afghanistan is the Commanders of Combined Joint Task Force-82 and Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan. The requests must be submitted on a DA Form 4187 and include supporting documents to substantiate the request. Complete instructions are included in AR 600-8-22, Military Awards.

3. The Commander, US Army Human Resources Command (USA HRC) is the approval authority for requests outside the 90-day redeployment window. Due to the large volume of requests received at USA HRC, eligible Soldiers wait several more months before receiving appropriate recognition for their combat service. Commanders' approvals of such requests in theater preclude the latter. Military Awards Branch currently has a 5-month backlog for active duty CAB requests.

4. In early April USA HRC, Military Awards Branch, will produce and distribute to senior Army commanders in the combat theater a new training package to assist in the production, processing, and approval of the CAB.

5. Questions pertaining to this message should be forwarded to the Military Awards Branch at DSN 221-8700 or commercial (703) 325-8700.